



November 2018

Rock On!



Welcome to the first edition of NSCA's **Rock On!** newsletter. The aim is to keep in touch with our member clubs, throw in a bit of curling news, some tips, some amusing stuff, and whatever else we can come up with to fill the pages.



From Curling Canada and beyond

The introduction of the five-rock free guard zone

Huh? When did that happen? While you were enjoying our summer weather. So here are some thoughts from Nolan Thiessen, athletic advisory council member to Curling Canada and the World Curling Federation:

[\[https://www.curling.ca/blog/2018/06/15/thiessen-blog-five-rock-fgz-a-positive-change-for-curling\]](https://www.curling.ca/blog/2018/06/15/thiessen-blog-five-rock-fgz-a-positive-change-for-curling)

In September 2017, the World Curling Federation membership voted overwhelmingly to change the Free Guard Zone (FGZ) rule as of the 2018-19 season to the five-rock FGZ rule, a change from the four-rock rule that has been in place in Canada since 2002, and the rest of the WCF since 1993.

As a Member Association of the WCF, Curling Canada has decided to adopt this rule for its competitions, beginning this coming season.

First, let's be clear: no club player, team or league is obligated to play under the new rule; if you run the Tuesday night mixed league, you can keep the four-rock rule or establish a 10-rock rule if you want to. Do whatever you need to keep it fun and keep your members engaged and coming back for more. But if you enter any kind of a playdown that leads to a Curling Canada-operated championship, the five-rock rule will be in effect as of this coming season.

So there you have it. Check out the rest of Nolan's blog for some observations and strategy tips under the new FGZ rule.

The end of the Travelers era

The Travelers sponsorship of the club curler championships is no more. Curling Canada is actively seeking a new sponsor and soliciting views on whether its format should be tweaked. If you want to weigh in, NSCA would be delighted to forward your thoughts to Curling Canada, or you can email Danny Lamoureux, Director, Championship Services and Curling Club Development: dlamoureux@curling.ca.

Other items under discussion

- White paper on Junior Championships - Should the field of teams playing in the national Under-21 and Under-18 championships be broadened? Curling Canada thinks so, and NSCA agrees. But how to do this? A white paper is currently under discussion among Curling Canada operational staff and the executive directors / presidents of all provincial and territorial associations. If you would like to see the white paper or learn about the continuing operational discussions around junior championships, contact NSCA's Executive Director, Virginia Jackson, at: vjackson@nscurl.com
- The impact of the Curling World Cup game format changes --- Eight-end games /no extra ends / shootouts -- what??? This from the July posting on its website: [<http://worldcurling.org/cwc-launch>]

Games will be eight ends as standard and, in each discipline, there will be two groups of four. Teams will play a double round robin, with the teams finishing top of their groups moving into finals that will decide the winners.

In a move away from other international curling championships, there will be no extra ends to decide tied games, instead, there will be a one stone shoot-out, for each team, with the team closest to the button winning the game.

Expanding on that idea, teams will be handed three points for a win in eight ends and two points if they win after a shoot-out. The team that loses the shoot-out gets a single point and a losing team after eight ends gets zero points.

An additional single stone shoot-out will take place between teams tied for first place at the end of the round robin.

Hmmm...can Canada be far behind?

Goodies!

Curling Canada has published a new set of rulebooks and rules posters for clubs. Yay! The posters are free and NSCA has ordered and has delivered copies. Yay! The rulebooks are not free. Boo! But see below...

From NSCA

Real Goodies!

- NSCA has purchased rulebooks from Curling Canada for distribution to our member clubs and coaches. Each club will receive two rulebooks: one for general club reference and one for the club's junior director. All at no cost to the clubs -- Yay!
- NSCA has put together a print calendar for the upcoming curling year, September 2018 to August 2019. It is jam-packed with a listing of all NSCA sanctioned events and their entry deadlines. And there are some neat pictures, too. They are being delivered free of charge and in person by an NSCA Board member -- Yay!

We have a few other goodies in mind, so stay tuned.

Cyber Goodies!

- NSCA is issuing an invitation to all clubs to post their invitational spiels and events on the nscurl.com website. Hey, who can argue with a little free advertising? To take advantage, pop a note to: vjackson@nscurl.com.

Just to add an extra plug for a pretty special event, we wish to acknowledge the upcoming **50th** running of the Metro Women's Spiel! The first "Metro Ladies Bonspiel" was held on Nov. 26, 27, 28, 1969 with **56 (!)** teams from the five metro curling clubs of the time -- Dartmouth, Mayflower, Halifax, Glencoe and Halifax

Services (CFB). This year's event will be hosted by the Mayflower Ladies Curling Club with play also taking place at Dartmouth Curling Club from Monday, November 12th through Thursday, November 15th.

- Andrew Paris, NSCA's Technical Director and social media nut, is also available to help any clubs with social media stuff, including marketing strategies and tools. Contact him at: aparis@nscurl.com or 902-410-5391 (cell).

Serious Stuff

- Bylaw reform - Okay, so it's not exciting stuff. But it is long overdue. NSCA's bylaws are in dire need of refreshment. Rather than continue with piecemeal tinkering, an overhaul is underway. Stay tuned, club presidents, for a discussion draft to be sent out to you very soon. And don't be afraid to discuss it with your members, who might have some great feedback for us. The aim is to have these bylaws in place and operational for our next AGM.
- Policy and championship rules reforms
 - HELMETS - The NSCA Board has passed an official helmet policy. Under the policy, all under 12 participants in NSCA sanctioned events must wear a helmet. There are several acceptable certifications under the policy -- check it out on the website. Clubs are strongly advised to adopt this policy in their junior programs, and to take steps to encourage helmet use for all club curlers who meet the risk factors outlined in Curling Canada's helmet advisory.
 - DISCIPLINE AND APPEAL POLICY - This new and improved policy was developed with the help of a special advisory panel to the NSCA (thank you!), models developed by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada, and seminars put on by the NS Dept of Communities, Culture and Heritage. It applies to all NSCA members and events and very soon will be found on the NSCA website.
 - SAFETY POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS - In recent years, there has been an increasing and needed push from government, media, medical practitioners, parents and participants for safer sport. The challenge is that there is no additional funding to address the emerging issues that include: mandatory helmet use, safe sport/respect training, "the rule of 2", anti-harassment / discrimination / abuse policies and training. With the help and lead of Curling Canada, and drawing on the advice and resources of various funding partners, charity organizations, legal and government entities (including: Sport Canada, Sport Nova Scotia, NS Dept of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, Parachute Canada, Canadian

Sport Centre Atlantic, Sport Law & Strategy Group, Respect in Sport, Coach.ca), we are busy revising or devising policies and procedures on such things as concussions, sexual misconduct, harassment and discrimination, whistleblowers, etc.. Look for our new or improved policies and protocols on the website as they are approved by the Board.

With apologies to Disney....



IO, IO, it's online membership we

go! NSCA is very pleased to report that Amherst, Glooscap, Highlander and Liverpool Curling Clubs have grabbed Curling Canada's IO tool. NSCA is using IO for all competitors' registration for NSCA events and guess what? We're whistling that it works!

Now that I've planted that little earworm in your head, how about I send you to Spotify for an old but still pretty cool song about curling? Check out Jonathan Coulton's song, "Curl".

Well, that's it for now.

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